

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 SCA-01 /015 W

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R 281428Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7138

UNCLAS NASSAU 1407

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BF

SUBJ: ALLEGED EXTRADITION REQUEST

REF: NASSAU 1359 STATE 201930

1. DURING CONVERSATION BETWEEN GOVERNOR ASKEW AND AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 24 RE LOBSTER NEGOTIATIONS, LATTER RAISED PROBLEM ARISING FROM REPORT OF AUGUST 7 BY STATE-WIDE FLORIDA GRAND JURY ON DRUG SMUGGLING CITING ALLEGED REFUSAL OF BAHAMIAN AUTHORITIES TO EXTRADITE 14 FUGITIVES. AMBASSADOR QUESTIONED GOVERNOR ON PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN REQUESTING EXTRADITION AND SUGGESTED THAT MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED BY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE DIRECTLY WITH DEPARTMENT. GOVERNOR EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT METHODS HAD BEEN USED AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER.

2. DCM RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AUGUST 27 FROM E. J. SALCINES, STATE ATTORNEY AND ADVISER TO GRAND JURY, WHO STATED THAT IN VIEW OF FACTUAL ERROR OF GRAND JURY REPORT, HE AND JURY WISHED TO ISSUE APOLOGY TO GCOB. APOLOGY, WHICH WOULD BE IN FORM OF TELEGRAM TO AMBASSADOR REQUESTING TRANSMITTAL TO BAHAMIANS, READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

PLEASE CONVEY TO THE APPROPRIATE BAHAMAS AUTHORITIES AN APOLOGY ON BEHALF OF THE STATE-WIDE GRAND JURY, WHO ON AUGUST 7 HAD REPORTED INACCURATELY THAT 14 STATE-WIDE GRAND JURY FUGITIVES WERE "PRESENTLY" IN THE BAHAMAS -- WHEN IN FACT ELEVEN HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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VOLUNTARILY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR COURT ACTION.

THE OTHER THREE ARE APPARENTLY NO LONGER IN THE BAHAMAS.
SINCE NO FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST WAS MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS, WE REGRET ANY PROBLEMS OR
EMBARRASSMENT THAT THIS HAS CAUSED YOUR GOVERNMENT.

YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY, /S/ E. J. SALCINES UNQUOTE

DCM SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED THAT SOME MENTION SHOULD BE MADE OF
FACT THAT GCOB HAD NOT BEEN RECIPIENT OF FORMAL EXTRADITION
REQUEST ESPECIALLY AS THEY HAD PUBLICLY DENIED RECEIVING SUCH
REQUEST. SALCINES EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ADD ADDITIONAL
PHRASE THIS SUBJECT WHICH IS INCLUDED IN ABOVE CITED TEXT.
HE INDICATED THAT REFERENCE TO EXTRADITION HAD BEEN OMITTED
AS STATE DEPT HAD INFORMED GOVERNOR'S OFFICE THAT EVEN HAD
FORMAL EXTRADITION BEEN REQUESTED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DENIED
AS "CONSPIRACY TO IMPORT MARIJUANA WAS NOT AN EXTRADITABLE OFFENSE
UNDER US/UK TREATY." THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, SALCINES APOLOGIZED
PROFUSELY IN HIS OWN NAME AND FOR GOVERNOR ASKEW FOR WHAT HE
TERMED HIS ERRORS IN WRITING THE GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS
AND HIS FAILURE TO DISTINGUISH EXTRADITION AS A LEGAL WORD OF
ART FROM INFORMAL REQUEST MADE BY FLORIDA STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES.

3. UPON ITS RECEIPT, EMBASSY, UNLESS IT HEARS OTHERWISE FROM
DEPT., WILL SEND NOTE TO GCOB INCLUDING TEXT OF TELEGRAM WHICH
SHOULD CONSTITUTE A SUFFICIENT RESPONSE AND APOLOGY AND HOPEFULLY
CONCLUDE MATTER.

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